## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

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Disclosed variable optical is an MEMS attenuator comprising a substrate having a planar surface, a microelectric actuator arranged on the planar surface of the substrate, a pair of optical waveguides having a receiving end and a transmitting end, respectively, and coaxially aligned with the other while being arranged on the planar surface, an optical shutter movable to a predetermined position between the receiving end and the transmitting end of the optical waveguides, and driven to move by the micro-electric actuator, and a surface layer formed on the optical shutter, having reflectivity less than 80% so as for incident light beams to partially transmit thereinto, and having a characteristic of extinction, thereby extinguishing the transmitted light beams therein.